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Contacts: Kristin Alexander  
(360) 902-9307, pager (360) 455-6301  
Bill Tarrow, (360) 902-9376

## **Toys R Us Taps WorkSource to Fill Jobs**

OLYMPIA – A new hiring partnership between the U.S. Department of Labor and Toys “R” Us has a whimsical name – “Operation Geoffrey.” But the venture, named after the toy store’s mascot giraffe, means serious business for Washington’s WorkSource system that helps people find jobs.

Toys “R” Us is the latest business to tap WorkSource to help recruit new workers. The company expects to use Washington’s one-stop centers and similar resources in other states to fill 50,000 seasonal and regular jobs at more than 600 stores. The partnership officially kicks off Oct. 1, with meetings scheduled between Toys “R” Us managers and WorkSource staff.

“Many Washington businesses have come to rely on WorkSource for their human-resource needs because we make it easier and less expensive to recruit qualified workers,” said Dennis Loney, a business liaison for WorkSource. “We offer these valuable service to all businesses ranging from small ‘mom and pop’ shops to large national companies.”

Services offered by WorkSource include job advertising, applicant screening, interview rooms, computerized job matching, labor market statistics and information about employee training opportunities and money-saving tax credits.

Job hunters can use computers, phones, copiers and fax machines; get work referrals and resume help; attend free career workshops and connect with employers at job fairs.

WorkSource also manages a Web site at <http://go2worksource.com> where job seekers can search more than 14,000 job listings, get information on career events in their communities and post resumes that can be viewed by employers.

WorkSource brings together government agencies, colleges, and nonprofit organizations that provide resources for job seekers and business.

“Government discovered that by partnering with private organizations and helping businesses, we could better help workers,” said Loney.

The Department of Labor encourages partnerships to help ensure that large, multi-state businesses recognize the value of the one-stop network and are connected to local workforce systems.

In Washington, the wide range of businesses who have tapped into WorkSource also includes Wal-Mart, Safeway, Fred Meyer, Home Depot, and Washington Mutual, to name a few.

“We expect more businesses to use our services as employers discover what we can do for them,” Loney said.

For more information about WorkSource, visit [www.go2worksource.com](http://www.go2worksource.com).

For information about the Department of Labor’s Partnerships for Jobs program, visit the National Business Partnership Web site at [www.nbpjobs.org](http://www.nbpjobs.org)

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